



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

May 20, 2005

For immediate release

NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: Weekly beach monitoring data will be updated by Thursday afternoon each week. The information can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.com/> and by clicking the “Beach Monitoring” link on the left side.

- 1. Initial investigation finds beef parts in Carroll water supply**
- 2. Health alert continues at Carter Lake**
- 3. Fish kill at George Wyth appears to be from natural causes**

INITIAL INVESTIGATION FINDS BEEF PARTS IN CARROLL WATER SUPPLY

CARROLL — Two of the four samples of animal parts found in the Carroll water supply have been identified as beef. Tests on the other two samples, both of which were similar to the others, are continuing.

The samples included two pieces of meat and two bones. The positive identifications were made on one bone and one piece of meat. It was also determined that the samples did not include fur and skin and that it had not been cooked.

The results so far would appear to eliminate a wild animal having found its way into the system, according to Barb Lynch, chief of the field services bureau for DNR.

The water supply in Carroll continues to be safe for residents of the city to drink.

The most recent incident occurred April 21st when the city was flushing water mains and some smaller bones and a meaty/fatty tissue was expelled from a water hydrant. A similar

incident occurred during the first week of March when the pipe serving a residence in Carroll became clogged from a meaty or fatty substance.

Birds and other forms of wildlife getting into water pipes is rare, but not unheard of, according to the DNR.

Investigation at to how the substances got into water pipes is continuing.

For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at 515-249-2814.

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HEALTH ALERT CONTINUES AT CARTER LAKE

CARTER LAKE, IA — A health alert advising the public to minimize skin contact and ingestion of water from Carter Lake remains in place.

Weekly monitoring done by the state of Nebraska has determined that water there continues to remain at more than 20 parts per billion for microcystin, a toxin that can be produced by blue-green algae. These restrictions will continue until the states find that all sampling locations at Carter Lake are below the state's threshold for declaring a Health Alert (20 parts per billion of the toxin microcystin) for two consecutive weeks.

The surface area of Carter Lake, located west of the Missouri River, has portions in both Iowa and Nebraska. The two states will continue partnering to monitor the lake for toxins caused by blue-green algae including microcystin.

The health alert warns the public against full-body contact including swimming, water skiing, jet skiing, sailboarding and tubing on the lake while the health alert is in effect.

Both the Iowa and Nebraska public health agencies are urging the public to pay particular attention to small children and pets, to make sure they don't come in contact with the water. Recreational boating is permitted, as long as the public makes sure to avoid situations that could possibly involve the ingestion of water. People can still use the areas for camping, picnics, and other outdoor activities.

Fishing is still allowed, although eating internal organs should be avoided. Consumption of fish filets should not pose a threat to human health.

A fact sheet regarding blue-green algae is available on the following link at the Iowa DNR web site:

<http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu/publications/fact%20sheets/2005FactSheets/2005-5.pdf>

For more information, contact Mary Skopec of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at (319)335-1575.

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FISH KILL AT GEORGE WYTH APPEARS TO BE FROM NATURAL CAUSES

CEDAR FALLS — A fish kill that only affected yellow bass at George Wyth State Park appears to be from post-spawn related stress, according to Bryan Hayes.

Dead yellow bass have been reported at both George Wyth Lake and nearby Brinker Lake. The kill has only affected yellow bass and the number of fish affected so far appears to be less than 100.

Field tests taken at George Wyth Lake did not indicate any pollution problems that would have caused the kill and other fish species have not been affected.

“Fish from the lakes are safe and there are no problems in eating fish caught from there,” said Hayes.

For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at 515-249-2814.